

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A pharmacological composition comprising:
 - 5 a) a gum resin;
 - b) at least one topically acceptable pharmacologically active agent other than said gum resin that is effective as a treatment for ameliorating symptoms of a disease of skin or a mucous membrane of a mammal, wherein said pharmacologically active agent can remain in contact with said skin or said mucous membrane greater than 6 hours without toxic effects to said mammal; and
 - 10 c) a topically acceptable volatile solvent for said gum resin and said pharmacologically active agent.
2. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said gum resin comprises benzoin.
- 15 3. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said topically acceptable volatile solvent comprises ethanol.
4. The composition according to Claim 3, wherein said topically acceptable volatile solvent is ethanol and comprises about 60% to 90% of said composition.
- 20 5. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein said pharmacologically active agent is an antimicrobial agent.
- 25 6. The composition according to Claim 5 wherein said antimicrobial agent is an anti-fungal agent.
7. The composition according to Claim 6, wherein said anti-fungal agent is clotrimazole.

8. The composition according to Claim 7, wherein said clotrimazole is present as 1% of said composition.

9. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein said pharmacologically active agent is a 5 steroidal agent.

10. The composition according to Claim 9, wherein said steroidal agent is betamethasone.

11. The composition according to Claim 10, wherein said betamethasone is present as 10 0.025-0.05 % of the composition.

12. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said pharmacologically active agent comprises both an antimicrobial agent and a steroidal agent.

13. The composition according to Claim 1, further comprising a penetration enhancer.

14. A pharmacological composition comprising:
a) a benzoin;
b) clotrimazole ; and
c) ethanol.

20 15. A method of increasing the effectiveness of a treatment for ameliorating the symptoms of a dermatological disease in a patient in need thereof, said method comprising:

a) contacting sites on the skin of said patient exhibiting symptoms of said dermatological disease with a pharmacological composition according to Claim 1; and
b) allowing said composition to dry so that it forms a film on said skin, so that the effectiveness of said treatment for ameliorating said symptoms is increased.

25 16. The method according to Claim 15, wherein said dermatological disease is a fungal infection and said pharmacologically active agent is an anti-fungal compound.

17. The method according to Claim 16, wherein said fungal infection is athletes foot.

18. The method according to Claim 16 or 17, wherein said anti-fungal compound is
5 clotrimazole at a concentration of about 1% by weight.

19. The method according to Claim 15, wherein said dermatological disease is an
inflammatory disease of the skin.

10 20. The method according to Claim 19, wherein said inflammatory disease is selected from
the group consisting of eczema, seborrheic dermatitis and psoriasis.

21. The method according to Claim 19 or 20, wherein said pharmacologically active agent is
an anti-inflammatory steroid agent.

22. The method according to Claim 21, wherein said anti-inflammatory steroid agent is
betamethasone at a concentration of about 0.025% to 0.05% by weight.

23. The method according to Claim 15, wherein said dermatological disease is a bacterial
infection.

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24. The method according to Claim 23, wherein said pharmacologically active agent is an
anti-bacterial agent.

25. A method of producing a biological dressing as a treatment for ameliorating symptoms of
a disease of skin or a mucous membrane, said method comprising:
drying a composition according to Claim 1 on the skin or a mucosal membrane of a
mammal at a site exhibiting symptoms of said disease so that it forms a film on said skin
or mucosal membrane, whereby a biological dressing is obtained for ameliorating said
30 symptoms.

26. A biological dressing obtained according to the method of Claim 25.

27. A pharmacological composition comprising:

5 a) a benzoin;

 b) 1% clotrimazole ; and

 c) 60% ethanol.

28. A method of treating athlete's foot, said method comprising the steps of:

10 a) contacting sites on the skin exhibiting symptoms of athlete's foot with a pharmacological composition according to Claim 14 or 27; and

 b) allowing said composition to dry so that it forms a film on said skin, so that said symptoms of athlete's foot are treated.